



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Female Climate Accelerator Programme

A partnership between NORCAP and WFP

What it is

The impacts of climate change have been more detrimental to women than men. This is because most communities, particularly in the least developed countries, have side-lined women and left them at home. Unlike men, women are not part of many decision-making processes, and they have limited access to resources (e.g., land, radios, mobile phones), leaving them tremendously vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. When these impacts hit and force men to migrate to other areas in search for work, women are often left behind with the added responsibility of agricultural activities, in addition to raising children and household chores. Women have played a pivotal role in running households for a long time, including making major contributions to food and agricultural sector. Still, the existing gender disparity has made it difficult for women to access information that can enhance their resilience to the impacts of climate change. Recognising this gap, the Norwegian Capacity (NORCAP) - part of the Norwegian Refugee Council - initiated the Female Climate Accelerator Programme in 2022, with the objective to partner with various institutions and organisations, including UN agencies like WFP, in an effort to increase the number of female experts within the climate sector. The Female Accelerator Programme provides international opportunities for females within the climate sector, supporting their professional growth and development through mentorship by senior NORCAP climate experts.

This mentorship programme aims to equip female scientists with the needed technical, field, and social skills in the climate services sector to accelerate innovative science-based solutions and enhance the gender role in the development and delivery of climate services. Increasing the number of female climate experts will benefit the communities, including those areas where women have been marginalised and have limited access

to climate information, offering new solutions to mitigating the impacts of a changing climate.

WFP's first Climate Services mentee, Jacqueline

Jacqueline Tesha explains the role of women in supporting households and communities in ensuring food and nutritional security, generating income, and improving livelihoods and well-being. Investing in women by empowering them is essential, not only for the well-being of individual families and communities but also for the overall economic productivity, given women's presence in the small-scale agricultural sector.

She describes how women's gender roles and limited access to resources such as radios and mobile phones have been limiting their access to climate information (e.g., forecasts aired when women are busy with the house chores or when men have left home with the radios). This mentorship programme will allow her to bridge the existing gender gap which has been hindering women from accessing climate information. These messages are crucial for planning and decision-making in both women's agricultural and daily activities. She says that sharing this information with women is possible via the development of tools and services that will cater to the needs of women. This can be coupled with other activities such as awareness raising, training and capacity building that will benefit women and improve their access, knowledge, and application of the developed tools and services.

"Through this mentorship programme, I am looking forward to learning invaluable technical skills relating to the climate services sector and using those skills to help women become resilient in the face of a changing climate" - Jacqueline Tesha, WFP's first climate services mentee.



Jaqueline explains the importance of working with rural women because they are not usually involved in community decision-making, even though they play a key role when climate disasters hit. In most patriarchal communities, women are not allowed to speak in the presence of men; this norm is very common and has been practised for years. This, in turn, has made women's voices remain unheard, as do the challenges they face.

"Through this programme, I believe I will be able to engage with women, uncover their voices, and ensure their challenges are addressed and concerns are integrated in the packaging of climate information, so women become part of the planning and decision-making processes." - Jacqueline Tesha

What she wants to leave behind

She explains that being the first female mentee to WFP in this mentorship programme provides her with the opportunity and challenge of defining this innovative work and then plotting a course to achieve it. In preparation for the next mentee, she hopes to develop solutions and ensure the next mentee can build off of these successes and continue the growth of this important work.

Funding provided by:



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Moreover, [climate services](#) have become an important tool in WFP's [anticipatory action programme](#) and is a crucial component of the [UN's commitment](#) to ensure every person on the planet is covered by early warning systems and the messaging they provide.

Since the goal of this programme is to increase the number of female experts working in the climate services field, Jacqueline hopes to leave behind the first steps towards growing this programme in WFP. Being the first in any discipline is always the hardest. So, during her time at WFP, she will focus on how to expand the existing climate services portfolio to more countries with a women-centred approach and to further expand climate services into WFP's emergency response and anticipatory action programmes, ensuring an increase in the number of women who are able to access and utilise climate services effectively. Moreover, she wishes to leave behind a clear path forward for the next mentee to implement and further develop this innovative portfolio.

At NORCAP, we work to better protect and empower people affected by crises and climate change. With expertise in the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors, we collaborate with local, national and international partners on finding solutions to meet the needs of people at risk. NORCAP is part of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Photo page 1: WFP/Imani Nsamila

Photo page 2: WFP/Imani Nsamila

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SERVICE (PRO-C)

World Food Programme

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,
00148 Rome, Italy - T +39 06 65131

wfp.org/climate-services